

**Flynn, Eileen**

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**From:** Sue <sshat1175@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 12:48 PM  
**To:** HSTestimony  
**Subject:** Vote YES to H.B. # 6941

To the Members of the Human Services Committee,

Legislative Office Building  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

My name is Susan Shatney of 40 Meriline Ave, Plainville. I am writing today to ask you to support \*H.B. No. 6941 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING STATE AGENCY INTERPRETER SERVICES. I am a certified Sign Language Interpreter who has worked for the State of Connecticut, Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), Interpreting Unit for the last 14 years. I also have my Masters in Social Work.

This bill is a good example of how insourcing benefits the state by reducing the cost of interpreting services. As it currently stands, the DORS- Interpreting Unit is cheaper than other not-for-profit or for-profit agencies. Currently, there are several governmental agencies using out-of-state interpreting vendors. Past Auditor Reports, when the DORS Interpreting Unit was the Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired, show the Interpreting Unit has the ability of taking in enough money to support itself and then some. Within recent years, many government agencies have been increasingly hiring non-profit and for-profit companies to provide interpreting services. Not only does this decrease the amount of work to DORS's qualified and experienced interpreters, this practice takes tax payer money out of the state's monetary system.

The DORS Interpreting Unit currently has more full time equivalent staff than it has in its history so it is poised to take on this initiative.

I strongly encourage you to vote Yes to HB 6941. I believe this bill is a win-win for all by keeping money within the state and providing an opportunity for the state to maintain qualified and experienced interpreters for its Deaf community.

Respectfully,

Susan Shatney  
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